

## January - Epiphany - The Arrival of the Three Wise Men

On the 6th January, we have a special festival called Epiphany when we remember the visit of the three wise men (or three kings) to the baby Jesus.

In the Bible in Matthew's Gospel chapter 2, verse 1, it says  
“when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’”



Do you remember anyone else who visited baby Jesus? Yes the shepherds!

What differences were there between the shepherds and the wise men?

- The shepherds were poor; the wise men were rich.
- The shepherds came from the same country as Jesus; the wise men came from a different country.
- The shepherds were in the fields close by; the wise men travelled a long way.
- Angels appeared to the shepherds; the wise men followed a star.

Epiphany means that God wanted both the shepherds and the wise men to see the baby Jesus. God wants everyone to see Jesus and it doesn't matter if we are rich or poor or where we live or come from.

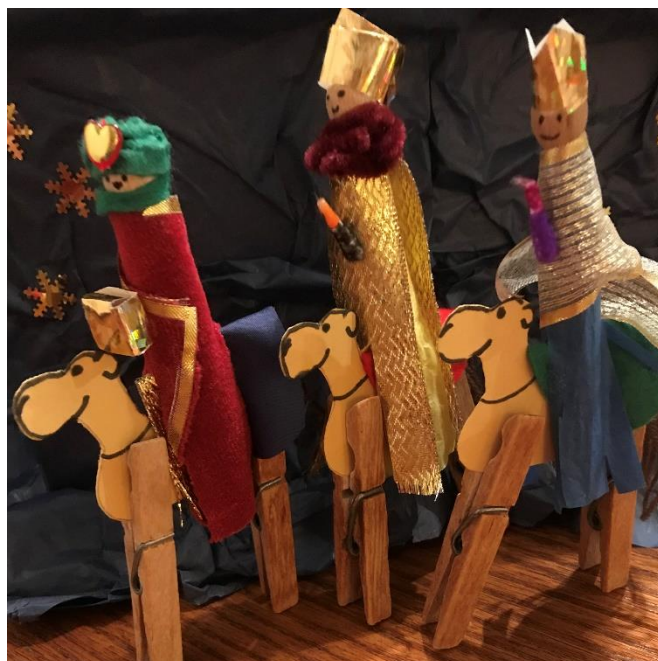
Read or listen to the story of the Wise Men in Matthew chapter 2 then think about journeys you have made. Where did you go? How did you get there? There are many stars in the sky. Do you know some of their names? Think about presents that have made you happy or surprised. What were they? What present would you give to a baby? What present will you give to Jesus?

## Make your own Wise Men on Camels



You will need: Fabric, yellow or orange card, tissue paper, sparkly ribbon or paper, 6 spring pegs, 3 dolly pegs, (or 3 additional spring pegs) scissors, glue, colouring pens, cotton bud, gold card or paper, wool.

**1.** Draw a camel on paper and cut out. Use it to cut out 3 camels from the yellow card. **2.** Cut out 3 oval shapes from fabric or paper for the backs of the camels. **3.** Wrap tissue paper or fabric around the wise men and glue in place. Add sparkly ribbon. **4.** Draw or stick on features, glue wool tails on camels. **5.** Make crowns or headdresses. **6.** Make presents from the ends of the cotton bud and colour in. Make a small box from gold paper. **7.** Attach pegs to the camels. Assemble your scene.



The wise men brought special gifts for Jesus. These gifts were **gold, frankincense and myrrh**. The three gifts have a meaning.

- Gold is a gift that is fit for a king. Jesus is a great king, the king of the world.
- Frankincense is a special kind of fragrance that was used by a priest. Jesus is our Great High Priest.
- Myrrh was a sweet-smelling liquid that was rubbed gently into the skin of someone who had died. Jesus died for us and that is important for everyone in the world.

**A Prayer for you to say:**

Dear God, thank you that you want both rich and poor to see Jesus.

Thank you that as we think about Epiphany,

We are reminded that every person is important to you.

Thank you for Jesus, the light of the world and for all your gifts to us. Help us to use our gifts wisely. **Amen.**

What are you looking forward to in 2024? Draw or write those things in the lamps below and share them with someone.

